

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 6-9, 11, and 14-19 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1-5, 12-13, and 23-26 remain cancelled. Claims 6-11, 14-22, 27, and 28 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWED SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication on page 8 of the Office Action that claims 27 and 28 are allowed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-11, 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0163710 to Ortiz (hereinafter "Ortiz") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0010862 to Ebara ("Ebara"). Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ortiz and Ebara and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0025342 to Uchida ("Uchida").

Independent claims 6 and 11 are amended herewith to clarify the claimed subject matter. The claims are fully supported by the originally filed specification, for example, FIGS 2-4 with their corresponding description in the specification. Applicants believe that no new matter is added. The dependent claims, 7-9 and 14-19 are amended to correspond to the amended independent claims, 6 and 11, from which they respectively depend.

In the "Response to Amendment" section (see page 9-10 of the outstanding Office Action), the Examiner admits that Ortiz discloses a system storing a plurality of kinds of biometric data, such as, fingerprint and iris data (see paragraph [0100] of Ortiz). In Ortiz, authentication takes place in stages different information or biometric data being acquired from a person in each stage (see paragraphs [0101]-[0102] of Ortiz). Further, Ebara discloses an apparatus which may process acquired biometric data to store representative features only (see paragraph [0025] of Ebara).

However, Ortiz and Ebara alone and in combination fail to render obvious a terminal device as recited in claim 6 where:

- a biometric data storing unit which stores a plurality of kinds of biometric data associated with a person, the plurality of kinds of biometric data including **first biometric data used for comparison with biometric data acquired from the**

person and, second biometric data used for comparison with dictionary data;
and

- a biometric data output unit which selects **the second biometric data having a different kind than said acquired one kind of biometric data, from the plurality of kinds of biometric data of said person**, designated by an authentication device including a dictionary data storing unit storing dictionary data, and outputs the second data from said biometric data storing unit to the authentication device, to authenticate said person by matching said second biometric data with said dictionary data after said person has been authenticated by said person authentication unit.

In contrast to Ortiz where second biometric data (e.g., iris image) are acquired from the person after first authentication data (e.g. fingerprint) was acquired from the person in a previous identification stage, in claim 6, the second authentication data is NOT acquired, but selected among the already stored data of the person. The processed data from Ebara refers to the same acquired biometric data in a reduced, simplified form, and, thus, Ebara also fails to render obvious a biometric output unit that outputs the second data "having a different kind than said acquired one kind of biometric data, from the plurality of kinds of biometric data of said person" recited in claim 6.

Since the cited prior art references, Ortiz and Ebara fail to render obvious all the features of claim 6, claim 6 and claims 7-10 depending from claim 6 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 11 is amended herewith to specify that the biometric data storing unit "stores a plurality of kinds of biometric data associated with a person, the plurality of kinds of biometric data including first biometric data used for comparison with biometric data acquired from a person and, second biometric data used for comparison with dictionary data."

Furthermore, claim 11 specifies that the biometric data transmitting unit "outputs the second biometric data having a different kind than said acquired one kind of biometric data, from the plurality of biometric data of said person stored in the storing unit, after said person has been authenticated by the second person authentication unit." The biometric data storing unit and the biometric data transmitting unit of the terminal device in the biometric authentication system of claim 11 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited prior art references, Ortiz and Ebara. Since according to claim 11, the second data is not acquired but extracted from the already stored biometric data, the cited prior art references also fail to render obvious "a first person authentication unit which performs first person-authentication based on comparing said

second biometric data transmitted from said biometric data transmitting unit, and said dictionary data stored in said dictionary data storing unit" of the authentication device in the authentication system.

Therefore claim 11 and claims 14-22 depending directly or indirectly from claim 11 also patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

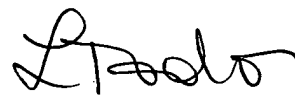
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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